

NISTIR 6774

Workshop On Fire Testing Measurement Needs: Proceedings

William Grosshandler
(Editor)



NIST

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

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Building and Fire Research Laboratory

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U.S. Department of Commerce
Donald Evans, Secretary

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Dr. Karen H. Brown, Acting Director

G. IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBALIZATION ON U.S. FIRE TESTING

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**European Group of Official
Laboratories for Fire Testing**

EGOLF

Janet Murrell
Warrington Fire Research Centre
UK

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Background

- Founded 1988 - effectively as a Trade Association
- Provides focus for European fire testing issues -Technically Oriented Not Commercial
- Members - independent, nationally recognised laboratories testing in support of national legislation or consumer safety requirements
- Membership - 47 laboratories from 22 different countries, (EU, EFTA and Eastern Block)(all points west of the river Eur)

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EGOLF Members Interest Areas

- Buildings and Structures
 - testing
 - assessment
 - certification
 - research
- Active Fire Protection
- Transport
- Building Contents

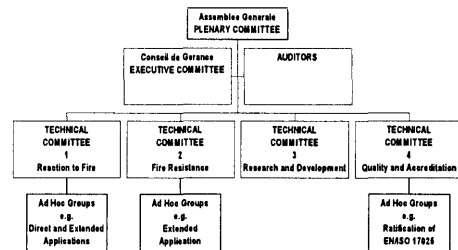
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graph TD
    AG[Assemblée Générale  
PLENARY COMMITTEE] --> CE[Conseil de Gestion  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE]
    AG --> AUD[AUDITORS]
    CE --> T1[TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
1  
Reaction to Fire]
    CE --> T2[TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
2  
Fire Resistance]
    CE --> T3[TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
3  
Research and Development]
    CE --> T4[TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
4  
Quality and Accreditation]
    T1 --> AG1[Ad Hoc Groups  
e.g.  
Direct and Extended  
Applications]
    T2 --> AG2[Ad Hoc Groups  
e.g.  
Extended  
Application]
    T4 --> AG4[Ad Hoc Groups  
e.g.  
Ratification of  
ENASO 17825]
  
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The organizational chart for EGOLF Structure is as follows:

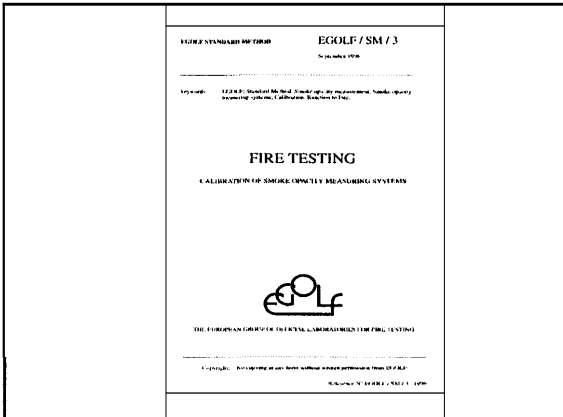
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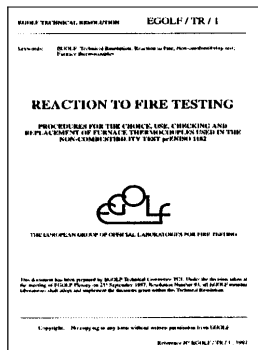


EGOLF Strategic Aims - 1

- Mutual Acceptance of Test Reports
- Unified Fire Testing and Laboratory Quality Procedures, including issuing interpretations, technical resolutions and standards where none exist

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EGOLF Strategic Aims - 1

- Mutual Acceptance of Test Reports
- Unified Fire Testing and Laboratory Quality Procedures, including issuing interpretations, technical resolutions and standards where none exist
- Promote Research and Testing
- Provide Training for Technicians
- Provide Minimum Level for Equipment and Expertise (set improvement targets)

EGOLF Strategic Aims - 2

- Provide a Forum for Collaboration on Fire Matters in Europe (with legislators, industry and other European or Non European Bodies)
- Cooperation with inspection and certification bodies (towards product approval in EEA)

EGOLF Competency Groups

- Forums in which members agree to work together to improve the quality of their work and the technical ability and expertise of their staff
- Usually one group per test method or application method (FR)
- Work together to achieve harmonisation of testing procedures
- Achieve mutual recognition of results, reports or certificates

Mutual Confidence

- Proof of compliance with the various EU Directives is achieved by working with a Notified Body
- An official mark on a product (e.g. CE mark) ensures its marketability throughout the EES, therefore there must be confidence in the Notified Body approving the product
- Most EU Directives require compliance with EN 45001 for "Notified Test Laboratories" (to ensure quality) (EN 45001 is the ISO 9000 equivalent for laboratories, similar to ISO Guide 25)
- Mutual acceptance between accreditation bodies is not a good enough basis to provide confidence

BUT.....

- EN 45001 is insufficient to fully cover the work of "official fire test laboratories" and prove their competence because:
 - fire testing is not absolute, a degree of subjectivity exists
 - the role of the "official fire test laboratories" is more than just testing. They
 - perform assessments, extrapolation of test results and expert judgement
 - provide inspection and certification activities
 - give technical advice to regulators
 - play a major role in the EN standards writing / proving process.

Mutual Confidence

- within EGOLF mutual confidence is fostered by :
 - long term experience in cooperation and working together
 - known security of existing informal arrangements
 - developing and using same technical standards
 - peer audit [by other member laboratories]
 - inter-laboratory training and proficiency testing programmes.
 - knowledge that the "official" members are wholly independent fire test laboratories.

EN 45001 and ISO/EN 17025 - Problems in Enforcement

- Impracticability of calibration to national standards
- Reference materials [size and variety]
- Uncertainty of Measurement determination
- National Accreditation Bodies apply variable interpretations & some technical assessors have little or only recent experience

EGOLF is working to create Interpretation Guidelines for EN45001 and ISO/EN17025



EGOLF Achievements

- Driving force behind the work of CEN TC 127 and solving its problems
- Focus of Collaboration between EC and Notified Bodies to pull together CPD elements (EGOLF hold Chairmanship of Fire Sector Group of NB and 80% of membership)
- Instrumental in providing interlaboratory studies on CEN tests to achieve harmonised standards
- Without EGOLF there would be no confidence in the harmonisation process in Europe

Preparing for a Global Market

- The European Market has grown beyond the EU countries (EES) and continues to grow.
- Other areas eg. Marine, already have a global market
- Same problems of mutual confidence exist
- Solution - a global approach to harmonised fire testing with confidence in each others abilities and the ability to work together as a team

International Co-ordination

- Problems - language/distance
- Regional bodies within a global umbrella
 - EGOLF (Europe)
 - NAGOLF (US & Canada)
 - ASIAGOLF (Pacific Rim)
 - SAGOLF (South America)
 - AFGOLF (Africa)
- IGOLF (International Federation)